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# BARBERRY ERADICATION in IOWA

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A TYPICAL COMMON BARBERRY  
Growing Wild in  
Fence Row

# Local Men Employed On Project



Since 1932, men employed in connection with the barberry eradication program have been obtained through re-employment offices in the communities where the work was to be done. After a brief training period during which the men are taught to recognize rust and the barberry bushes from which it spreads, they are assigned to field work in crews of 4 to 10 under the direction of an experienced foreman.

To insure complete eradication of all rust-spreading barberry bushes in a community where they are known to be growing wild, it is necessary to make a detailed inspection of all native and planted timber, shrubs in yards and gardens, drainage ditches, creek banks, and fence rows. Barberry bushes found are destroyed by applying crushed rock salt at the roots.

Japanese barberry does not spread rust and should not be destroyed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine  
Washington, D.C.

Barberry Eradication Office  
Ames, Iowa

Dear Cooperator:

During 1936, approximately 16,000 barberry bushes were destroyed on 1,057 different properties in Iowa. All uncultivated lands in an area comprising more than 7,300 square miles were carefully inspected by eradication crews made up of men employed with funds appropriated under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Acts of 1935-36. Some work was done in each of 40 counties.

The eradication of common barberry bushes reduces the amount of loss caused by stem rust of oats, wheat, barley, and rye, by eliminating the spring host of the fungus that causes the disease.

This pamphlet contains a brief discussion of recent progress made toward the control of stem rust in Iowa, and additional information concerning the program may be obtained by writing this office.

Very truly yours,

*D. R. Shepherd*  
D. R. SHEPHERD  
Associate Pathologist

# Iowa Boys And Girls Report Bushes



Nine hundred properties on which barberry bushes were growing have been reported during the past few years by boys and girls who have studied about the stem-rust disease in school. As a result of these reports, 80,000 rust-spreading bushes have been destroyed. A single report often leads eradication crews to a community that has become generally infested with barberry as a result of birds scattering seed from bushes planted years ago. This greatly reduces cost of eradication.

In recognition of such services the Grain Rust Prevention Association, Minneapolis, Minn., presents a bronze medal to each boy or girl reporting new properties having barberry bushes.

Report known locations of common barberry bushes to THE BARBERRY ERADICATION OFFICE, Botany Hall, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

# Facts About Black Stem Rust

Black stem rust is caused by a tiny parasitic plant that begins its growth each spring on the leaves of the common barberry. From the barberry it spreads to wheat, oats, barley, rye, and many native grasses.

During the summer the stem-rust fungus depends for its living upon the food that it takes from the leaves and stems of the growing grain plants. Often badly rusted fields produce less than half of a normal crop, and the harvested grain is of little value either for feed or for milling purposes.

There are two possible sources of stem rust in Iowa, (1) Spores which come directly from the barberries within the State, and (2) spores which may be blown in from the South where the disease begins to develop earlier in the spring. The relative importance of these two sources may vary from year to year, depending upon weather and other growing conditions. In the normal year, however, rust spreading from the South arrives too late to damage Iowa small-grain crops materially. Thus, the eradication of barberry bushes within the State will eliminate the most important source of the disease.

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Iowa is one of 17 important grain-growing States cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the eradication of rust-spreading barberry bushes.